

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
Studies in the News**

California -- One Hundred and Fifty Years Ago

June 1858. "Dueling. Albert Turner and Wm Houser, of Marysville, went out yesterday to Sutter county, to fight a duel, but the Sheriff of that county interfering, they left to settle their difference by powder and ball, in Butte, but while on the way the horses in the hack of one of the parties broke down because of the heat and fast driving, and the affair had to be delayed. An effort to arrange the matter in a peaceable manner, proved unavailing. What it was all about, or when they are likely to fight it out, is not stated." *The Daily [Sacramento] Bee* (June 11, 1858) pg. 2 , col. 1.

June 1858. "Marysville. A.D. Turner and Dr. H. Houser, spoken of yesterday as having gone out to fight a duel, and being prevented, settled yesterday morning, by shooting at each other with double guns, each barrel loaded with one ball; distance fifty paces. At the fifth round Houser was shot in the right arm. The arm [may] or may not have to be amputated." *The Daily [Sacramento] Bee* (June 12, 1858) pg. 3, col. 2.

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at www.library.ca.gov/sitn

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261; csinfo@library.ca.gov) with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Report and Recommendations on the Administration of the Death Penalty in California. By the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice. (The Commission, Santa Clara, California) June 30, 2008. 145 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.ccfaj.org/documents/reports/dp/official/FINAL%20REPORT%20DEATH%20PENALTY.pdf>

["California's death penalty system is on the verge of collapse, with the nation's longest delays, uncontrolled costs, an overly broad law and an illusory promise of justice to victims' families.... To reduce the time between sentence and execution to the national average of 12 years, California must spend at least \$95 million a year to recruit and pay defense lawyers and investigators, expand the state attorney general's staff and reimburse counties for the costs of capital trials. There are only two ways to cut costs. One is to narrow the death penalty to fewer crimes, which would eliminate nearly half the death sentences and expenditures. The other is to abolish the death penalty and sentence defendants to life in prison without parole, which would cost \$11.5 million a year." San Francisco Chronicle (July 1, 2008) 1.] [Request #S08-38-2625]

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ECONOMY

CALIFORNIA

California and Metro Forecast. By the Business Forecasting Center, University of the Pacific. (The Center, Stockton, California) June 2008. 68 p.

Full text at:

http://forecast.pacific.edu/cametroforecast/CA_MetroForecast_June2008.pdf

["California is in a mild recession and has been since the last few months of 2007. The forecast is perhaps the boldest pronouncement to date that California is in recession and says the recession figures to be fairly long-lived but not severe. Unemployment in California has risen to 6.8 percent; Sacramento-area unemployment is up to 6.4 percent. Those increases are more a reflection of a slowdown in hiring than a wave of layoffs or plant closures. That bolsters the prediction that the recession will be mild. Unemployment rates will stay high for a while. Sacramento-area unemployment will average 6.6 percent through 2010." San Francisco Chronicle (June 26, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-38-2619]

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ECONOMIC POLICY

The Great Credit Squeeze: How It Happened, How to Prevent Another. By Martin Neil Baily and others, Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC) May 2008. 163 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/0516_credit_squeeze/0516_credit_squeeze.pdf

["The experience of the U.S. financial system and economy during the past year vividly demonstrate the need for reform of our financial regulation and supervision. Financial markets will always experience swings between confidence and fear; between optimism and pessimism. However, effective regulation and supervision can reduce the frequency, the magnitude, and the broader consequences of these swings. Our diagnosis of what caused this crisis leads directly to our prescriptions for policy changes. We view our proposals as a measured response -- more than a fine-tuning of the regulatory and supervisory system, but less than a complete overhaul."]
[Request #S08-38-2580]

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HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY

Nanotechnology: A Policy Primer. By John F. Sargent, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. (The Service, Washington, DC) May 2008. 15 p.

Full text at: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34511.pdf>

["Nanoscale science, engineering and technology -- commonly referred to collectively as nanotechnology -- is believed by many to offer extraordinary economic and societal benefits. Congress has demonstrated continuing support for nanotechnology and has directed its attention primarily to three topics that may affect the realization of this hoped-for potential: federal research and development in nanotechnology; U.S. competitiveness; and environmental, health, and safety concerns. This report provides an overview of these topics and two others: nanomanufacturing and public understanding of and attitudes toward nanotechnology."]

[Request #S08-38-2606]

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NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Local Patterns and Dynamics: The State of the Nonprofit Sector in Los Angeles. By Hyeon Jong Kil and others, UCLA Center for Civil Society. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) 2008. 54 p.

Full text at:

http://www.spa.ucla.edu/ccs/docs/2008%20Nonprofit%20Report_52908.pdf

["These are challenging times for LA's nonprofit sector. The examination of population needs and nonprofit capacity shows stark contrasts across regions of LA County: the most affluent area of the County receives the most resources per capita for children and youth and for persons living in poverty. The poorest regions in the County receive the lowest resources per capita for children and youth and the elderly as well as for persons living in poverty and the uninsured. Differences between richer and poorer regions correlate highly with ethnic concentrations of local populations.... Philanthropic leaders and community activists must explore the discrepancies in nonprofit capacities, and consider the implications of regional inequities in nonprofit provision for the region as a whole."]

[Request #S08-38-2583]

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EDUCATION

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

High-Achieving Students in the Era of NCLB. By Ann Duffett, Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, and others. (The Foundation, Washington, DC) June 2008. 86 p.

Full text at: http://www.edexcellence.net/detail/news.cfm?news_id=732&id=92

["While the nation's poorest-performing students have made academic progress under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, the brightest students appear to be languishing for lack of attention.... From 2000 to 2007, the scores of the top 10 percent of students essentially held steady on National Assessment of Educational Progress tests in reading and math. The scores for the bottom 10 percent of students, meanwhile, rose by 18 points on the 4th grade reading test and 13 points in 8th grade math.... What's difficult to tell is whether the disparity was caused by the federal law or whether it reflects longer-term educational trends." Education Week (June 18, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-38-2639]

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ENGLISH LEARNERS

The Role of Schools in the English Language Learner Achievement Gap. By Rick Fry, Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) June 2008. 34 p.

Full text at: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/89.pdf>

["Students designated as English language learners (ELL) tend to go to public schools with low standardized test scores. However, these low levels of assessed proficiency are not solely attributable to poor achievement by ELL students. These same schools report poor achievement by other major student groups as well, and have a set of characteristics associated generally with poor standardized test performance -- such as high student-teacher ratios, high student enrollments and high levels of students who live in poverty or near poverty. When ELL students are not isolated in these low-achieving schools, their gap in test score results is considerably narrower."]
[Request #S08-38-2638]

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FAMILIES & SCHOOLS

Ready to Succeed: Changing Systems to Give California's Foster Children the Opportunities They Deserve to be Ready for and Succeed in School. By the California Education Collaborative for Children in Foster Care. (The Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning, Los Angeles, California) 2008. 54 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cftl.org/documents/2008/FCfullreport.pdf>

["One of the aspects of foster care that undermines educational outcomes for foster children is the disruption in schooling by constant changes in placements. The School Readiness Workgroup focused on school stability, in recognition that no intervention will succeed unless the student's school placement is stabilized. The group quickly expanded its focus to address other factors that affect foster youths' success in school. Recommendations are organized according to the following major categories: 1) Training and support for parents and caregivers; 2) Access to high-quality and therapeutic preschool programs; 3) Professional development; 4) Early intervention; 5) Legislation eliminating congregate care for children under age five; 6) Data collection and research; and 7) Education rights."]

[Request #S08-38-2584]

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EMPLOYMENT

WORKERS COMPENSATION

Jose Facundo-Guerrero v. Worker's Compensation Appeals Board, et al. California Court of Appeals, First Appellate District. A119814. June 2, 2008. 17 p.

Full text at: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/A119814.PDF>

["In a ruling that could restrict the benefits available to injured workers in California, a court upheld numerical limits on state-funded treatments, a key component of the cost-cutting workers' compensation measures backed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2003-04.... The court turned aside an appeal by a worker who injured his back and made 76 visits to a chiropractor for treatment. The state workers' compensation system approved benefits for only 24 of the visits.... Lawyers attacked the benefit limits on constitutional grounds.... But the court said the Constitution does not require 'unlimited treatments' and leaves the details of the system up to state lawmakers, who can take steps to keep the system solvent." San Francisco Chronicle (June 3, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-38-2407]

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The 2008 Regional Workforce Forecast. By the Sacramento Regional Research Institute and Valley Vision. (The Institute, Sacramento, California) June 2008. 36 p.

Full text at: <http://208.187.166.142/Industry%20Report.pdf>

["A fresh jobs forecast for the Sacramento region shows tens of thousands of new openings coming our way, but not all are the type public schools are emphasizing. Although a major push has taken hold in public schools to get all high school graduates ready for college, the new work force study found the vast majority of jobs will require no postsecondary education.... The bulk of the fastest growing job categories are low-paying, low-skilled occupations such as food service, retail sales, cashiers and office clerks... Thirty percent of the jobs will require some level of college, either two-year, four-year or beyond. Teaching and nursing are among the top growing fields in this realm.... The study looked closely at 75 key industries that account for more than 80 percent of the region's employment."]

[Request #S08-38-2528]

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WORKPLACE SAFETY

Hidden Tragedy: Underreporting of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses. By the Majority Staff of the Committee on Education and Labor, U.S. House of Representatives. (The Committee, Washington, DC) June 2008. 44 p.

Full text at:

<http://edlabor.house.gov/publications/20080619WorkplaceInjuriesReport.pdf>

["Extensive evidence from academic studies, media reports and worker testimony shows that work-related injuries and illnesses in the United States are chronically and even grossly underreported... If these estimates are accurate, the nation's workers may be suffering three times as many injuries and illnesses as official reports indicate.... Experts have identified many reasons for underreporting. But a major cause of underreporting is OSHA's reliance on self-reporting by employers.... This report reviews the evidence that injuries and illnesses are significantly underreported, the reasons why injury and illness statistics are underreported, methods that some employers use to discourage reporting, and other measures that may be more helpful to identify workplace safety problems."]

[Request #S08-38-2589]

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ENERGY

WIND POWER

20% Wind Energy by 2030: Increasing Wind Energy's Contribution to U.S. Electricity Supply. By the U.S. Department of Energy. (The Department, Washington, DC) May 2008. 248 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy08osti/41869.pdf>

["This report examines some of the costs, challenges, and key impacts of generating 20% of the nation's electricity from wind energy in 2030. Specifically, it investigates requirements and outcomes in the areas of technology, manufacturing, transmission and integration, markets, environment and siting.... Wind power would be a critical part of a broad and near-term strategy to substantially reduce air pollution, water pollution, and global climate change associated with traditional generation technologies. As a domestic energy resource, wind power would also stabilize and diversify national energy supplies."]

[Request #S08-38-2633]

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Wind Power in the United States: Technology, Economic, and Policy Issues. By Jeffrey Logan and Stan Mark Kaplan, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. (The Service, Washington, DC) June 20, 2008, 53 p.

Full text at: http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34546_20080620.pdf

["Although wind power currently provides only about 1% of U.S. electricity needs, it is growing more rapidly than any other energy source. In 2007, over 5,000 megawatts of new wind generating capacity were installed in the United States, second only to new natural gas-fired generating capacity. Wind power has become 'mainstream' in many regions of the country, and is no longer considered an 'alternative' energy source.... If wind is to supply up to 20% of the nation's power by 2030, as suggested by a recent U.S. Department of Energy report, additional federal policies will likely be required to overcome barriers, and ensure development of an efficient wind market."]

[Request #S08-38-2627]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

CLIMATE CHANGE

Policymaking Under Pressure: The Perils of Incremental Responses to Climate Change. By Cary Coglianese and Jocelyn D'Ambrosio, University of Pennsylvania Law School. (American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC) June 2008. 24 p.

Full text at: http://aei-brookings.org/admin/authorpdfs/redirect-safely.php?fname=../pdffiles/WP08-17_topost.pdf

["It is no surprise that piecemeal, sub-federal policies have garnered considerable support. Bolstered by the political science literature on the promise of incrementalism and democratic experimentalism, many proponents of climate change action favor incremental steps in the hope that they will improve the environment or at least serve as a basis for more comprehensive policies. Against this hopeful view, we explain why ad hoc responses to climate change may well be no better than, and possibly will be worse than, no action at all.... These problems not only can undermine the interim policies themselves but also may delay the adoption of a more comprehensive climate change policy."]

[Request #S08-38-2613]

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GREEN HOUSE GASES

Climate Change Draft Scoping Plan: A Framework for Change. By the California Air Resources Board. (The Board, Sacramento, California) June 2008. 93 p.

Full text at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/document/draftscopingplan.pdf>

["The plan, which aims to reduce pollutants by 10 percent from current levels by 2020, while driving investment in new energy technologies that will benefit the state's economy, is the most comprehensive yet by any US state. It could serve as a blueprint not only for the rest of the United States, but also for other big polluting nations like China and India.... The initiatives include implementing a cap-and-trade program on carbon dioxide emissions that will require buildings and appliances to use less energy, oil companies to make cleaner fuels, and utilities to provide a third of their energy from renewable sources. The program will also encourage development of walkable cities with shorter commutes and high-speed rail as an alternative to air travel" Reuters (June 27, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-38-2618]

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Options for Offsetting the Economic Impact on Low- and Moderate-Income Households of a Cap-and-Trade Program for Carbon Dioxide Emissions. By the Congressional Budget Office. (The Office, Washington, DC) June 2008. 13 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/93xx/doc9319/06-17-ClimateChangeCosts.pdf>

["The net financial impact of such a program on low- and moderate income households would depend in large part on how the value of emission allowances was allocated. By itself, a cap-and-trade program would lead to higher prices for energy and energy-intensive goods. Those price increases would impose a larger burden, relative to either income or household consumption, on low- and moderate-income households than on higher-income households. Lawmakers could choose to offset the price increases experienced by low- and moderate-income households by providing for the sale of some or all of the CO2 emission allowances and using the revenues to compensate such households."]

[Request #S08-38-2617]

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WATER CONSERVATION

Comparing Price and Non-price Approaches to Urban Water Conservation. By Sheila M. Olmstead, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and Robert N. Stavins, Harvard University. (American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC) June 2008. 27 p.

Full text at: http://aei-brookings.org/admin/authorpdfs/redirect-safely.php?fname=../pdffiles/WP08-18_topost.pdf

["Urban water conservation is typically achieved through prescriptive regulations, including the rationing of water for particular uses and requirements for the installation of particular technologies. A significant shift has occurred in pollution control regulations toward market-based policies in recent decades. We offer an analysis of the relative merits of market-based and prescriptive approaches to water conservation, where prices have rarely been used to allocate scarce supplies. The analysis emphasizes the emerging theoretical and empirical evidence that using prices to manage water demand is more cost-effective than implementing non-price conservation programs. Price-based approaches also have advantages in terms of monitoring and enforcement."]

[Request #S08-38-2612]

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WATER RESOURCES

Delta Vision Strategic Plan: Preliminary Staff Draft. By the Staff of the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force. (The Task Force, Sacramento, California) June 2008. 87 p.

Full text at:

http://www.deltavision.ca.gov/BlueRibbonTaskForce/June2008/Item_4_Attachment1.pdf

["Meeting the long-term water needs of a growing population -- now at nearly 38 million -- while balancing protections for water quality and wildlife could cost between \$12 billion and \$24 billion over the next 10 to 15 years. The cost could be as high as \$80 billion, according to a draft plan sent to a task force formed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger... The staff report outlines recommendations for improving the delta's ecosystem, building a canal or pipeline to move drinking and irrigation water around the delta, and strengthening the region's levees. It also recommends an entirely new government entity to oversee the delta.... The report also calls for a wide range of conservation and efficiency measures." San Jose Mercury News (June 21, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-38-2586]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Report on the Implementation of the New Government Structure. By the Los Angeles County Citizen's Economy Efficiency Commission. (The Commission, Los Angeles, California) July 2008. 29 p.

Full text at: <http://eec.co.la.ca.us/publications/pdf/cntyops/0807-NewGovernanceStructureReport.pdf>

["Power is scattered throughout the bureaucracy, and it's hard to credit any decision -- good or bad -- to one person. Last year, the Board of Supervisors made an effort to change that by hiring the county's first chief executive. But according to a report by a citizens watchdog group, many of the office's intentions are unfulfilled... Decisions have actually become tougher to make, and power is more diffuse. Aides to the supervisors have not relinquished control over the day-to-day affairs of county departments, thus expanding the number of bosses rather than reducing them.... The report described the Board of Supervisors and the staffs responsible for delivering services as being filled with micromanagers." Los Angeles Times (July 3, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-38-2637]

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PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING

Public-Private Partnerships: Creating Tomorrow's Infrastructure: How Governments Worldwide Link Partnerships to Future Prosperity, and What California Can Learn. By the American Council of Engineering Companies of California. (The Council, Sacramento, California) July 2008. 25 p.

Full text at: <http://www.acec-ca.org/userdocuments/File/acec-ca-pppwhitepaper7-08-final.pdf>

["This report provides an overview of California's current infrastructure crisis and explores how other countries have embraced PPPs as an effective method for renewing, creating or maintaining roads, rail systems, bridges, dams, levees, wastewater systems and other infrastructure vital to their continued economic development. One key finding of the paper is that common to all these countries is a commitment to provide broad authority to the government agencies and the public sector to engage in public-private partnerships.... Given California's gross domestic product and given the shortfall in spending here in the last few decades, it wouldn't surprise us if California is losing \$15 billion or more a year in production as a direct result of its clearly inadequate infrastructure."]

[Request #S08-38-2632]

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HEALTH

HEALTH CARE

Financing the U.S. Health System: Issues and Options for Change. By Meena Seshamani, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and others. (Bipartisan Policy Center, Washington, DC) June 2008. 36 p.

Full text at: <http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org/ht/a/GetDocumentAction/i/6323>

["Health reform proposals across the spectrum have included changes in how the U.S. health system is financed. The goals of such changes include using financing incentives to promote system goals, replacing insufficient financing mechanisms, and increasing Federal subsidies. Irrespective of their specific design and independent of the delivery system changes they support, these options have policy implications that have received little public attention. This paper examines the implications of different options for financing the health system such as continuing current financing and redirecting health spending to more effective uses, rolling back high-income tax cuts, modifying the current tax exclusion for health benefits, a play-or-pay model, and a value-added tax."]

[Request #S08-38-2614]

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HOSPITALS

Community-Acquired Pneumonia: Hospital Outcomes in California, 2003-2005.
By Joseph Parker, California Office of Statewide Health Planning and
Development. (The Office, Sacramento, California) 2008. 64 p.

Full text at:

http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HID/Products/PatDischargeData/ResearchReports/OutcomeRpts/CAP/Reports/2003_to_2005/CAP_03_05_Report.pdf

["Patients at the worst- performing hospitals were twice as likely to die as those at the best-ranked hospitals. The report looked at 30-day mortality rates for community-acquired pneumonia between January 2003 and November 2005. The statewide mortality rate was about one of every eight patients admitted with pneumonia. This was virtually unchanged from the earlier reports, which covered 2002-04 and 1999-2001. The report has two goals: 1) To assist healthcare consumers.... with assessment of the value of healthcare delivery to patients with community acquire pneumonia, and 2) To support and promote quality improvement by hospitals." Los Angeles Times (June 27, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-38-2620]

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INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Hepatitis C: Public Policy Implications of a Silent Virus. By Pamela Rasada,
California Research Bureau, California State Library. CRB-08-009. (The
Bureau, Sacramento, California) July 2008. 141 p.

Full text at: <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-009.pdf>

["More than 5 million people nationwide are infected with HCV; including 600,000 Californians. Due to the insidious nature of the virus, it is believed that fewer than half of them know they are infected. For many individuals the infection is discovered after the development of advanced liver disease.... The paper begins with a brief overview of the discovery of a hepatitis-related virus in the blood supply and how the cause of the virus, now known as hepatitis C, was discovered.... The second half of the paper contains detailed discussions of the policy issues related to HCV including disease tracking and surveillance, a historical timeline of prevention and control efforts, workers compensation and presumptive infection, and access to care and insurance."]

[Request #S08-38-2624]

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MEDICAL STANDARDS

Scope of Practice Laws in Health Care: Exploring New Approaches in California. By the California Health Care Foundation. (The Foundation, Oakland, California) March 2008. 12 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.chcf.org/documents/policy/ScopeOfPracticeLawsNewApproachesForCA.pdf>

["Scope of practice laws (SOP) establish a legal framework that controls the delivery of medical services. A large number of interest groups influence the design of these legal frameworksresulting in episodic and intractable political battles over modification of SOP laws in California and other states. This issue brief highlights a number of models for reviewing and modifying these laws.... These review programs seek to complement legislative SOP decision-making with formal review processes, additional expertise, and the use of empirical evidence."] [Request #S08-38-2585]

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HOUSING

HOMEBUYING

The State of the Nation's Housing. By Marcia Fernald and others, Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. (The Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts) June 2008. 44 p.

Full text at: <http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/publications/markets/son2008/index.htm>

["It's a bloodbath. The United States is caught in a real estate market downturn that is.... the worst in a generation. Decline in housing construction and home sales 'already rivals the worst downturns in the post World War II era.' Housing prices rose to unsustainable levels, as lenders relied increasingly on adjustable-rate subprime loans to keep buyers in the marketplace.... The result was a surge in foreclosures and a credit crunch that kept borrowers from refinancing. As home prices drop.... many consumers are curbing spending, delaying home purchases and forgoing remodeling projects.... The report predicts an eventual rebound of the housing market, but is uncertain when that may occur." San Diego Tribune (June 23 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-38-2610]

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REAL ESTATE LOANS

People of California v. Countrywide Financial, et al. Los Angeles County Superior Court. Complaint for Restitution, Injunctive Relief and other Equitable Relief. June 24, 2008.

["California Attorney General Jerry Brown sued the nation's largest home loan lender, alleging it engaged in 'deceptive advertising' to lure borrowers into taking out loans they weren't capable of repaying. The suit claims Countrywide put intense pressure on managers and sales staff, offering financial incentives to sell risky loans without regard to the borrower's ability to repay them. The lawsuit alleges that Countrywide lowered its lending standards to place large numbers of its loans in the 'secondary market,' a term for packaging them into profitable mortgage-backed securities and selling them to global investors. In a statement, Brown called Countrywide a 'mass production loan factory, producing ever-increasing streams of debt without regard for borrowers.'" Sacramento Bee (June 26, 2008) D1.].
[Request #S08-38-2603]

Complaint. 46 p

http://ag.ca.gov/cms_attachments/press/pdfs/n1582_draft_cwide_complaint2.pdf

Press release. 2 p.

<http://ag.ca.gov/newsalerts/release.php?id=1582&>

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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN

Kids' Share 2008: How Children Fare in the Federal Budget. By Adam Carasso, the Urban Institute, and others. (The Institute, Washington, DC) June 2008. 40 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411699_kids_share_08_report.pdf

["Every year, billions of dollars are dedicated to more than 100 federal programs that support children's education, nutrition, housing and health -- and in real dollar terms, anyway, that amount has been steadily increasing. But taken as a share of domestic spending, kids are getting less.... In 1960 children's share of domestic federal spending -- excluding spending on defense, international affairs and non-defense homeland security -- was about 20.2 percent. As of 2007, it had fallen to 16.2 percent.... Some children's programs that have seen at least some increase in federal spending include school improvement, and foster care. Those in decline include Head Start and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families." Stockton Record (June 28, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-38-2623]

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POVERTY

State Strategies to Reduce Child and Family Poverty. By the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. (The Association, Washington, DC) June 2008. 20 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0806POVERTYBRIEF.PDF>

["Poverty can result in long-term social and economic costs for children and families, communities, and states. In 2006, more than 13 million children lived below the federal poverty level.... To reduce poverty among children and families, state leaders can pursue several policy and program options. They can: 1) expand safety-net opportunities for families in crisis; 2) increase the returns on work; 3) promote savings and asset accumulation; 4) improve the consumer environment in poor neighborhoods; 5) increase access to education and training; 6) improve access to work supports; 7) invest in young children; and 8) strengthen family relationships."]

[Request #S08-38-2629]

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WELFARE

Welfare Time Limits: An Update on State Policies, Implementation, and Effects on Families. By the Lewin Group and MDRC. Prepared for the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (The Department, Washington, DC) April 2008. 231 p.

Full text at: <http://www.mdrc.org/publications/481/full.pdf>

["One of the most controversial features of the 1990s welfare reforms was the imposition of time limits on benefit receipt. Time limits became a central feature of federal welfare policy....and created Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grants. This comprehensive review updates a 2002 study, on what has been learned about time limits. Findings from the study include: 1) A large proportion of TANF households are not subject to time limits, but time limits play a key role in some states; 2) A quarter million TANF cases have been closed due to reaching a time limit; and 3) Many of the families whose TANF cases were closed due to time limits are struggling financially and report being worse off than they were while on welfare."]

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TRANSPORTATION

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Roadmap to Gridlock: The Failure of Long-Range Metropolitan Transportation Planning. By Randal O'Toole, Cato Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) May 27, 2008. 20 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa-617.pdf>

["Federal law requires metropolitan planning organizations in urban areas of more than 50,000 people to write long-range (20- to 30-year) metropolitan transportation plans and to revise or update those plans every 4 to 5 years. A review of plans for more than 75 of the nation's largest metropolitan areas reveals that virtually all of them fail to follow standard planning methods.... Nearly half the plans reviewed here are not cost effective in meeting transportation goals. These plans rely heavily on behavioral tools such as land-use regulation, subsidies to dense or mixed-use developments, and construction of expensive rail transit lines. Nearly 40 years of experience with such tools has shown that they are expensive but provide negligible transportation benefits."]

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